

THE HISTORY OF EARLY
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES IN KANSAS

by

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PREFACE

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In the beginning of the state of Kansas, agriculture was the first industry which the pioneer pursued. This is a study of the organization and growth of an agricultural society, which was later named the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, and was a persistent and helpful instrument in the development of agriculture in Kansas.

In view of the amount of material on the development of agriculture, it seemed a detailed history of an early organization, whose purpose was to promote agriculture, would be of interest and add to the story of the history of the state. The efforts of this organization assisted the farmer in adapting himself to the new land, and through experimentation to conquer this Great Plains area, much of which had not as yet been settled. The purpose of the study is to show how the Kansas State Board of Agriculture contributed in helping the farmer meet his problems, and the changes in policy of the board as the territory became a state and an agricultural industry developed from east to west.

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CHAPTER I. EARLY AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT
and
THE FIRST AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The territory of which Kansas is now a part had its beginning in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. As settlement moved westward this area was divided by the government among the Indian tribes,¹ some nomadic and others agricultural. The Indians were given land that was considered of little use to the agriculturist. Such general belief was based on reports from explorers. General Pike's report is perhaps the most generally known. He said after his trip across Kansas in 1806 that this land was only habitable along the rivers, and that grazing was the only practical industry.²

The frontier continued to move westward despite the adverse reports of the explorers and the Indian settlements. The Mexican War, just over, the discovery of gold in California and the Oregon problem came at the time when spirit was high. Men wanted adventures, and new excitement was the prevailing thought. People began to move from one section of the country to another. The Forty-niners, who were mostly from the western part of the then United States, were attracted to this adventure.³ They were not wholly unprepared for this land. Their hardiness for this open country was superior to that of the easterner, who was only out

¹ Senate Executive Documents, 48 Cong., 2 Sess., 2 No. 95, 412-417.

² C. D. Clark and R. L. Roberts, The Peoples of Kansas (Topeka, 1936), 19. A report of the Kansas State Planning Board.

³ Stewart Edward White, The Forty-niners (New Haven, 1918), 67.

for gold and not fitted for the ruggedness of pioneer life. The Forty-niner used Kansas as a highway because of its location and its few geographical barriers; nearly parallel rivers, a prairie and high plains, and a gradual slope in altitude. The assets of most of the Forty-niners were in farm equipment and cattle; some stopped to make homes as they traveled westward through this sparsely settled area. They found the eastern part of Kansas a prairie country which was similar to the states from which they came, and they gave a favorable report for settlement. Many varied stories were carried by other travelers and adventurers. Tales of Indian raids, droughts, severely cold winters, hot dry winds and treeless plains were common stories of the yet to be settled land.

Prior to 1850, the population of the territory was scattered. There were a few government posts, a few settlers, and some roadside industry for the wagon trade.⁴ It is estimated that 30,000 people crossed Kansas in 1849 and some 60,000 in 1850.⁵ Leavenworth was founded in 1854. In December of that year, the first house was built in Topeka, Lawrence, Atchison, Manhattan, and other towns were organized during this period.

In the struggle to settle and become a state, Kansas became prominent in the headlines of the nation's press during the fifties and the sixties, and continued to hold that position until the turn of the century. It was unfortunate that the political struggle over slavery and settlement of the state came at the

⁴ Fred A. Shannon, The Farmer's Last Frontier (New York, 1945), 31.

⁵ Clark and Roberts, op. cit., 20.

same time. But since Kansas, along with Nebraska, North and South Dakota, were next in line for settlement, the political conflict with the usual hardships of the pioneer were unavoidable. The pioneer not only had to make his home, but to contend with the political strife that held little interest for him, except for the organized groups commonly known as the immigrant companies.

The contest of "squatter sovereignty" caused immigrant companies to be formed in the North and the South with equally determined objectives to make Kansas free or slave. J. H. Lane led one of these groups by way of Nebraska,⁶ instead of the usual way through Missouri which had prohibited passage.⁷ There were about three hundred persons in Lane's "army" and they settled at Topeka on July 22, 1856. The actual settlers came from the mobile population that could be induced to move. These were the home founders and pioneers of Kansas. Ever since Jamestown, this mobile population had been on the frontier. The people of Kansas were tillers of the soil. The source of some of the Kansas population is shown in the census of 1860; 11,356 came from Missouri, 6,557 from Kentucky, 11,617 from Ohio and 4,208 from New England.⁸ In describing the population, C. D. Clark stated, "Kansans have exaggerated forms of American peculiarities, such as pioneer individualism, frontier faith and a practical efficiency."⁹

The general picture just presented sets the stage for the ac-

⁶ Kansas Facts (Topeka, 1928), 1, 59.

⁷ Daniel W. Wilder, Annals of Kansas (Topeka, 1866), 128.

⁸ Clark and Roberts, op. cit., 19.

⁹ Ibid., 1.

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tivity and encouragement of agriculture. At the first meeting of the territorial legislature of 1855, an agricultural committee was appointed, and several laws were passed to protect and help the farmer in establishing homes. One law was specifically for the encouragement of agriculture. This law allowed the farmer to sell or trade free of license for iron, salt, sugar, and spun cotton.¹⁰ The other laws dealt with claims, strays, hedging on roads, weights and measures, and horse stealing.

The efforts of the growing territory for the next two years were centered largely on government organization and the sending of an accepted representative to Congress. On July 15 and 16, 1857, the territorial convention met on the banks of the Kansas River in Topeka for the purpose of selecting a representative to Congress. A printed notice also had been posted calling a meeting to organize an agricultural society on July 16.¹¹ This was an appropriate day, since those interested in agriculture could attend both meetings. This meeting met in front of the old Topeka House. Hon. A. Larzalere of Doniphan County was elected President and C. C. Hutchineon was selected Treasurer. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution. W. F. Army, Dr. A. Hunting, Charles Robinson, and W. Y. Roberts were some of the members of the society.¹² There is very little known of the meetings of this early society. The records of this State Agricultural Society were taken to Lawrence, where Hutchineon lived, and were deposited

¹⁰ Kansas, General Statutes, 1855 (Topeka, 1856), ch. 4.

¹¹ Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Annual Report 1873 (Topeka, 1874), 7. Hereafter cited as K.S.B.A. Annual Report.

¹² Wilder, op. cit., 172.

ed with the Kansas Historical Society records. They were burned with other valuable papers during Quantrill's raid, August 21, 1863.¹³

This bit of history would have been lost except for a letter written by Hutchinson at Topeka on September 11, 1871. A history of the Kansas State Agricultural Society was published in the Fair Record and distributed at the Kansas State Agricultural State Fair at Topeka in September, 1871. This report did not mention the earlier organization of 1857. Mr. Hutchinson noticed the oversight in the publication and wrote his letter of the earlier attempt to organize.

The history was also published in the Daily Record of September 9, 1871, at Topeka. Hutchinson gave other information. An executive committee was also elected, but Hutchinson did not remember the names of its members. One of the evident signs of some of the society's accomplishments was complete sets of agricultural reports of the newer states, and also the older states which included Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and New York. The library, which was kept in the home of Judge E. D. Ladd of Lawrence, was later given to the state library. This collection was added to the agricultural society's library when it was reorganized. No fairs were held during this period. Contributing factors of the failure of this early organization were poverty, the struggle for territorial representation, and the contest over "squatter sovereignty". In the last paragraph of the letter Hutchinson stated:

¹³ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1873, 7.

These incidents, perhaps, deserve a place in the records of the times and they serve to illustrate the difficulties which beset the early settlers of the state, whose display of zeal, unfortunately, accomplished so little for agriculture in this case.¹⁴

By 1857, Kansas had chosen an acceptable representative to Congress, and the state legislature had passed many laws affecting agriculture in an effort to stabilize, protect, and help the farmer. These laws were mostly revisions of previous ones concerning strays, swine, horse stealing and firing of woods and some additional ones on the legal means of dividing a section, protection against diseased animals, wool growing and a census law. Along with the political strife, the drought of 1860 took its toll of population. It was estimated that 30,000 settlers left Kansas that year.¹⁵ Living here was indeed a hardship. Water was scarce and the crops dried up; there were few stored provisions. It was important that the territory of Kansas keep her population. Just as the emigrant companies had helped settle the state, they helped to retain that population. It was through the efforts of the free state legislatures that a generous amount was contributed to alleviate the hardships. New York gave fifty thousand dollars.¹⁶ It is true some received no help, but because they had learned the methods of the Indians in hunting and trapping they survived until the next year's crop could be planted and harvested. The pioneer knew from experience that one year of hardship was not the determining factor of success in a frontier area.

¹⁴ Ibid., 7.

¹⁵ Bliss Leely and W. M. Richards, Four Centuries in Kansas (Wichita, 1936), 231.

¹⁶ Wilder, op. cit., 296.

CHAPTER II. KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY OF 1862

To promote Kansas, new methods of agriculture had to be provided. The Republicans had been elected in 1860 with a plank on agrarian reform in the national platform. Laws had brought protection and standards to the farmer but there was no way to contact the people. Organization began at home where the need for relief was evident. The population was eager for anything that would better its situation. Interest was being aroused in county societies in Kansas. A concerted effort was being made by the farmer to help himself, and to meet his problems. The counties began organizing societies. The territorial legislature, in February, 1860, passed an act to incorporate agricultural societies in Coffey, Douglas, Franklin, Linn, and Wabaunsee counties. A district society called the Southern Kansas Agricultural and Mechanical Society was also incorporated.¹ Due to additional applications to organize county societies, the first state legislature passed an act to authorize the formation of county societies in general with specified requirements.²

These local organizations were of great value to the community. The main purpose was to hold a fair, which was educational as well as recreational. The fair offered an outlet for expression by providing competition of farm and household products. The farmer learned what his neighbor had, and by comparison, he could improve his type of farming and increase his efficiency.

¹ Kansas Laws (Special Session, 1861), 11, ch. 1.

² Ibid., 1861, ch. 181.

The county societies were of local character. The farmers nearer the Great Plains did not have much contact and needed to learn the best methods to produce the greatest results. It was a challenge to agriculture. A state organization was the answer: a central society for the assimilation of knowledge whereby the needs of the farmer would be understood and interpreted to the needs of the legal body.

On March 5, 1862, a mass meeting was held in the House of Representatives at Topeka for the purpose of organizing a society for the promotion of agriculture. F. B. Baker of Nemaha County was chosen to preside and J. D. Church of Atchison was selected as secretary. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution which was presented and adopted at the same meeting.³ On the following day the legislature passed an act to organize the "Kansas State Agricultural Society" for the "purpose of promoting agriculture and its kindred arts throughout the State of Kansas".⁴ The forming of the Kansas State Agricultural Society and its establishment by law, not only gave the state an agrarian society, but a contact between the farmer and the legislatures.

The year 1862 is not only significant in the history of Kansas agriculture, but it marks the culmination of a genuine interest in agriculture in the United States. Interest had been evident since the first agricultural society was organized in Philadelphia

³ K.S.B.A., Annual Report, 1873, 277.

⁴ Ibid., 8; Kansas Laws, 1862, ch. 185.

in 1785.⁵ The national government had also begun to feel the importance of encouraging agriculture. In the debates of the federal convention of 1787 a secretary for Domestic Affairs was proposed by Gouverneur Morris.⁶ Washington, in commenting on agricultural society, said, "I wish most sincerely every state in the union would stimulate a similar one".⁷ An agriculture committee was not appointed in the House of Representatives until 1820, and not until 1825 in the Senate. The Commissioner of Patents voluntarily undertook to distribute seed to "enterprising farmers" in 1839. One thousand dollars was appropriated by Congress to collect and distribute seed and to conduct an agricultural investigation of statistics for the benefit of the growing nation. On May 15, 1862, the United States Department of Agriculture was created.⁸ A Commissioner of Agriculture was appointed by the President, but he did not hold a cabinet status until 1889. The department, however, was independent of all other administrative departments of the government. The United States Agricultural Society and the voters who had supported the agrarian reform in 1860 were credited with the creation of the new department.

On May 20, 1862, the Homestead Act became a law, and on July 2, 1862, the Morrill Act creating the land-grant colleges was

⁵ J. N. Kans, Famous First Facts (New York, 1933), 21.

⁶ E. H. Scott, Editor, Journal of Federal Convention Kept by James Madison (Chicago, 1893), 360.

⁷ Jared Sparks, Editor, The Writings of George Washington (Boston, 1858), 11, 141.

⁸ United States. Government Information Service, United States Government Manual (Washington, 1946), 283.

passed. These acts promoted agriculture and were of vital importance to each other. They affected the state directly. The Homestead Act brought new home seekers, and the Morrill Act started colleges for scientific agriculture. The United States Department of Agriculture was the distributor of information and in later years was investigator in better methods of farming. The effect of these acts gave new life to the development of agriculture in Kansas. The Kansas State Agricultural Society became the chief promoter of agriculture in the state.

At the same meeting for organizing and adopting the constitution, the first officers were selected for the Kansas State Agricultural Society. Lyman Scott of Leavenworth County was elected president, with F. G. Adams of Shawnee County as secretary, and Isaac Garrison, also of Shawnee County, as treasurer. The executive committee consisted of E. B. Whitlock of Douglas, F. P. Barker of Nemaha, W. A. Shannon of Lyon, C. B. Linee of Wabaunsee, J. C. Marshall of Linn, Martin Anderson of Jackson, Thomas Arnold of Coffey, J. W. Sponsable of Johnson, Wilson Wells of Riley, and R. A. Van Winkle of Atchison.⁹

These 13 men immediately set to work to plan the activities of the organization. They had to have information upon which to lay the foundation for their activity and to develop the society for the needs of the state. Their first act was to prepare a questionnaire which was sent to the trustees of each township. The township trustees were to return accurate answers to the secretary before December 1, 1862.¹⁰ These answers were to serve as a basis

⁹ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1873, 9.

¹⁰ Ibid., 1873, 9.

for matters relating to agriculture and to aid the Society in preparing a report on agricultural conditions to present to the legislature. It was decided not to hold a fair in 1862. Places were isolated, transportation inaccessible, and time was needed to start a functioning program.

This enthusiastic group of men who had met and organized an agricultural society were determined to have an active organization. One could become a member for one year for a fee of one dollar and a life member for a fee of 10 dollars. The membership was unusual from the standpoint of the agriculturalist. Of the 108 life members listed in the Annual Report, only two were farmers, three were a combination of stockmen and farmers, two were stockmen and one of each represented wool growing and fruit raising. The rest of the memberships were merchants, senators, governors, lawyers, sheriffs, booksellers, editors, and a wholesale dealer in liquors and cigars.

This professional class was usually engaged in some agricultural activity as is shown in the participation at fairs and the interest in the reports made at the meetings of the Society. This list is not as misleading as it appears to be. In many cases, the profession listed is an avocation when fundamentally the members were farmers, and were prepared to serve the state in two capacities. Some of those included in the membership were: L. D. Bailey, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court; S. K. Hudson, Mayor of Lawrence; John Speer, Collector of Internal Revenue; Charles Robinson, late Governor of Kansas; Joseph Danison, President of Blumont College; James Lane, United States Senator;¹¹

¹¹ Member of Agricultural Committee in U. S. Congress who favored passage of the Morrill and Homestead Acts.

Preston B. Plumb, Major of the Kansas Eleventh Division of the United States Army; George A. Cutler, government agent of the Creek Indians; William Spriggs, State Treasurer; J. W. Sponable, Treasurer of Johnson County and first life member of the Society; E. C. Macy, Surgeon of the Kansas Colored Infantry; Isaac T. Goodnow, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and G. C. Hutchinson, agent of the Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.¹² These men were either farmers or were directly dependent upon farming for a livelihood. Their membership helped to support the movement for the benefit of agriculture and the farmer, who had little extra time for activities other than that of farming and maintaining a home for his family. In addition to the paid members, the president and secretary of each county or district society were eligible for membership.¹³ They could attend the annual meeting and help elect the officers for the state organization. This brought together the local societies in actual contact with the legislature.

The framework of the Kansas State Agricultural Society consisted of a president, secretary, treasurer, and an executive committee composed of 10 other members. The officers were elected every year while the executive committee rotated every two years. The president, secretary, and treasurer had the usual duties, while the executive committee was to direct all money appropriations and control the property, which was not to exceed ten thousand dollars.¹⁴ The secretary and treasurer were to regulate and award

¹² First Secretary to Agricultural Society of 1857.

¹³ K.S.B.A., Annual Report, 1873, 8-9; Kansas Farmer, May 1, 1863.

¹⁴ Kansas Laws, 1862, ch. 182.

premiums at the fairs. It was the duty of the executive committee to meet annually the second Tuesday in January, and prepare a report of the Society's activities during the preceding year for the use of the legislature. The committee was also instructed to receive reports from district and county societies and to incorporate them with reports of committees, experiments, improvements, correspondence, and statistics. This would show the "condition of the agricultural interest of Kansas, and...add to the productiveness of agriculture and household labor, and therefore promote the general prosperity of the state."¹⁵

At the first annual meeting, January 13, 1863, L. D. Bailey was elected president and F. G. Adams was re-elected secretary. The Society with its new officers decided to publish a journal, and they called it The Kansas Farmer.¹⁶ This official journal was started on May 1, 1863, as a monthly at a cost of 50 cents a year. A special rate was given to clubs for 40 cents a year. There were only 1,000 copies of this first issue printed. It was the size of an ordinary book, eight and one-half by five and one-half inches, with about 32 pages.

After the publication of the journal was decided upon, the Society turned its attention to "A Farmers' Class Meeting". It was the custom to hold weekly meetings while the legislature was in session for the purpose of comparing notes, experiences, and observations with the farmers from different parts of the state. The first of this type of farm meeting was begun by the House of Representatives in Massachusetts in 1839 and due to its popularity Kan-

¹⁵ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1873, 8-9.

¹⁶ Ibid., 12.

was followed the same plan, as other states had done. President Bailey presided at this first Farmers' Class Meeting, the purpose of which was to acquaint the legislature with the farmer and his problems and to encourage constructive legislation to help the farmer solve his problems with greater ease and efficiency.

In opening these weekly meetings, President Bailey stated briefly "that the Society could not afford for fifty dollars to have any man make a fine speech, but that any man having facts bearing upon the subject under discussion was at liberty and requested to give others the benefit of such knowledge and experience".¹⁷ Experience, methods, time of planting, cost and all the elements that go to make a good crop or good farming were topics to be discussed at these meetings. The scientific knowledge and methods obtained here would be useful to all farmers in the region where the experience took place and might be adaptable to other areas of the state.

Grapes, tobacco, and Seage orange were the three subjects which were discussed at this first Class Meeting. The first two crops were chosen to prove that they could be grown profitably in this new area, and the third was chosen to encourage farmers to plant hedges for fencing. A brief review of the contents of this first group of meetings will show the sincerity of the participating farmers in an effort to establish crops which were familiar to them and to give their experience to others.

Mayor Warren A. Latta of Leavenworth gave the results of his experience from grape cuttings. He said he had spent one hundred dollars for 1,000 plants which he had planted on three-fourths of

¹⁷ Ibid., 14.

an acre. One hundred dollars had been spent for expenses of planting and caring for the plants, and he had sold two hundred dollars' worth of fruit the first year and four hundred dollars' worth the next year, 1862. The report recommended poorer soil because rich bottom land made the plants produce too much wood. The spade was the best type of cultivator and trenching the best method of planting. Grape raising as a profession was profitable. The Mayor said, "Labor is easily performed, much of it by women and children".¹⁸ Four other men made contributions to the discussion. A farmer of Marshall County stated that more wine could be obtained from 10 pounds of grapes here than from the same amount in the old country, and he told where cuttings could be bought.

Isaac Hiner from Anderson County told of his neighbor's success in raising tobacco. The neighbor's crop sold for four hundred dollars, and Hiner said he could make more money from an acre of tobacco than from 50 acres of corn. Due to this success, other neighbors had sent for seed. Speaking from his own experience, Hiner said he had grown a little tobacco every year, that while it grew on every kind of soil, "hazel land of mulatto color"¹⁹ was best. The best method of planting was to start seed in February and set the plants about June 10. Another Anderson County farmer recommended planting on brush land just recently burned, or on timber land where the leaves would be protected from the wind and sun. He felt that no soil was too rich for planting tobacco.

The Osage oranges had considerable importance in Kansas as a

¹⁸ Ibid., 14-15. Latta was a member of the Kansas Legislature.

¹⁹ Ibid., 16.

non-productive enterprise. Timber had been indispensable to pioneering. At the Kansas border, there was little timber to use for all the wants of the pioneer. Barbed wire fencing was not generally successful until 1873 when Joseph Glidden's patent was granted. Some type of fencing was necessary. The territorial legislature had passed a law to encourage the use of hedging in 1857²⁰ and later revisions of the law were made. A discussion on the methods, care of hedges before planting, and planting itself, were of interest to every farmer at this first Class Meeting.

The grasses best adapted to Kansas was the first topic discussed at the second meeting. A more vital topic could not have been chosen.²¹ Most of the discussion dealt with bluegrass instead of native grass. The information was varied in this experimental stage. There apparently was little bluegrass in Kansas until it was brought in by the settler. It first appeared along streams and around homes where belongings had been packed in bluegrass straw and seed had fallen from these belongings of campers and travelers at camp sites.

Bluegrass grew well in Kansas. A report from Miami County mentioned a 300-acre pasture of the native prairie grass where bluegrass had been sowed and it had run out the wild grass.

Wild prairie grass was recommended by a farmer of Shawnee County. He said it was the best wild grass and had more nourishment than any other wild grass of his experience. He added that an animal could gain more in one month's feeding in the spring on prairie grass than from two months on bluegrass of Kentucky.²²

²⁰ Kansas Laws, op. cit.; 1857, ch., 69.

²¹ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1873, 18.

²² Ibid., 18.

The rest of the weekly meetings were concerned with hemp, tobacco, flax, wine, and cotton.

Cotton was discussed at two of the meetings. Some felt the season was not long enough. The soil was as good as in the South, but lack of cotton gins was a handicap to the industry. Early experiments had been successful. The Society, in response to this success, purchased 500 bushels of cotton seed for the farmers of the state from a farmer of Leavenworth. Most of the seed was planted in that part of the state, and good results were obtained with farmers who had any knowledge of the care and planting. The yield averaged 200 to 300 pounds per acre. James Rogers, a member of the House of Representatives of 1863, had lived in the South. He said, "I advise farmers not to risk too much on it at first. Kansas farmers have been humbugged enough".²³

Fruit production was a successful enterprise. Grapes were the most outstanding fruit, but J. Jay Buck of Jefferson County had planted apple, pear, and peach trees, all of which were healthy and profitable. He mentioned the kinds that were most successful and recommended them for planting. Fruit plants were a success in Kansas in the sixties because they were mostly free of disease. Not until 1873 were the first fruit pest and disease noticed.²⁴

The series of meetings closed with what was more "important than all else at the present time, and that was stock raising".²⁵

²³ Ibid., 19.

²⁴ There was damage to both trees and fruit caused "by twig blight" in 1873. During the severe winters of 1864-65 and 1872-73, the peaches were injured. Apples were good.

²⁵ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1873, 22.

It was natural that livestock raising and cattle ranches went with the frontier. Grass was good, and most of the state was in the long grass section, except the southwest part. By the consent of the Society, G. W. Callamore, a sheep raiser and Mayor of Lawrence, had been invited to speak on sheep farming. He was unable to attend. Equally as valuable was an estimate of the cost and profit on 100 calves purchased at three dollars a head, kept until they were three years old and ready for the market, and sold at twenty-five dollars a head at a profit of fifteen hundred dollars.²⁶

What was learned at these meetings helped to discredit the stories which had been told about Kansas. In the closing statement of the Class Meetings, President Bailey stated that men with willing hands who were seeking homes could find an independent freedom in Kansas.

The staple crops in 1863 were hemp, tobacco, flax, and grapes, and there was some profit in raising fruit trees and cotton.²⁷

It had been decided early in the year 1863 to hold a fair in October. The place where the fair was to be, was to be determined by the economic inducement offered by the cities. Topeka, Atchison, and Leavenworth applied for the honor. The citizens of these cities were solicited to aid in the expenses of the fair, and Leavenworth made the most liberal offer. The fair was a success. The citizens of Leavenworth not only contributed financially to the fair, but attended and brought exhibits which made it a greater success.

²⁶ William Spriggs, who gave the report, was treasurer of the State of Kansas.

²⁷ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1873, 22.

It was stated the "show of stock, of manufactures and products was highly creditable to the state". The receipts of the fair totaled \$5,139.12, which indicated a large attendance, and competition was spirited. Even though there was a deficit of \$248.96 because of the premiums offered and the paying of the expenses, the success could not be determined by the deficit.²⁸

The year 1863 was considered successful for the Society. The questionnaire had been sent in 1862 to collect statistics. The membership had grown from one life member in 1862 to 210 in 1863. Publication of The Kansas Farmer had been started. Plans had been made for publication of a Kansas Annual Register and Emigrant Guide.²⁹ This would incorporate the statistics of the questionnaire along with other agricultural information of interest. The first fair had been held and the legislature had appropriated \$1,000 for the use of the Society. At the end of 1863, there was \$1,721.35 in the treasury.

The tragedy of the year was Quantrill's raid on August 21, 1863, in Lawrence. Besides the loss of some of the early records of the state, five members of the Society were killed during the raid. Hon. S. M. Thorp, State Senator; Hon. Louis Carpenter, Probate Judge of Douglas County; General George W. Callamore, Mayor of Lawrence; J. F. Griswold and R. C. Dix were the men who lost their lives.³⁰

At the annual meeting on January 12, 1864, the members examined samples of imphee sugar and syrup brought by C. B. Lines of

²⁸ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1873, 23.

²⁹ Ibid., 24. Located in the Kansas Historical Library at Topeka.

³⁰ Ibid., 25.

Wabaunsee County. At the first Class Meeting, Lines read an essay on "Sugar and Sorghum Culture and Manufacture". More persons contributed to the discussion than had heretofore.³¹

Crops of the South still held their place in the Farmers' Class Meetings of 1864, particularly cotton, hemp, and tobacco. Wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat and rye were beginning to be of some importance. It was decided that wheat was a good crop and the chance of losing it was less frequent than any other crop. But the drill was recommended to insure a good crop of wheat. Straw was worth almost as much as hay. In a statistical report in 1863, Kansas ranked second in bushels per acre of wheat among 20 other states.³² In buckwheat, rye, barley, and hemp, Kansas ranked first in bushels per acre, sixth in tobacco, eighth in potatoes, cotton, and castor-beans of the states compared. There had been little experience with timothy and clover. However, timothy that had been grown had done well. Clover had proved satisfactory. Winter wheat was recommended over spring wheat because of the chinchbugs. J. J. Buck said the chief drawbacks to raising wheat were the want of mills to grind it and an available market for its sale.

Corn had always been a good crop. In some counties corn had yielded 75 to 80 bushels to the acre. One instance shows corn planted on clodded ground that had been prepared for winter wheat.

³¹ African sugar cane is known as imphee sugar. The men were Dr. C. A. Buck of Jefferson, Dr. Ayers of Linn, H. L. Jones of Salina, Mr. Stone of Bourbon, Mr. B. F. Mudge of Manhattan, and Dr. Hidden of Nemaha.

³² K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1873, 31.

A farmer from Marshall County suggested the best method of planting was deep plowing. In an experiment he had plowed one plot with two yoke of oxen and another with one yoke of oxen. He found that the yield was two-thirds greater with deep plowing than with shallow plowing.

Up to this point, very little time had been spent on the discussion of livestock raising, and now, attention was turned to this subject. Large farms had taken the place of small ones, and there was more interest in beef and mutton and the crops that would produce better beef and mutton than in crop yields. Sheep raising would have been more successful except for the wolves. Cattle raising was the coming industry. Grass grew well in all parts of the state. Crops that had held the interest of the Kansan were pushed aside, and emphasis was put on stock raising. The range was there to be used. By the end of the Civil War, Texas was overstocked with cattle. The long drives had begun prior to the Civil War for the purpose of finding a market. The Texas cattle did not add much to the breeding stock in Kansas, as most of the settlers brought their own stock, but for the next 30 years they played an important part on the frontier. Even though the real drives did not begin until 1866, the effect they had on Kansas was significant. The early drives were menaced by highway men and robbers and Kansas was again known as a lawless state. The first drives were to Baxter Springs, then later to Abilene over the Chisholm Trail. The Pecos Trail was used even as late as 1890. Kansas stopped these drives on the pretext of Spanish

fever.³³ It is reported that one man lost all of his cattle after having crossed a trail used by Texas cattle. The Kansas State Agricultural Society became active in promoting laws to stop these drives. The first law was passed in 1865, and was repealed in 1866.³⁴ Subsequent laws were passed almost simultaneously as the railroads were built westward and the state was settled.

The Kansas Farmer had been sold in February, 1864, to H. E. Lowman of Lawrence, who resold it to George T. Anthony of Leavenworth. Much credit is given to this first farm paper of Kansas. The first issue contained a detailed description of the Farmers' Class Meetings. A copy of the Society's constitution and a list of officers and life members were also published. The periodical had a subscription list of 868, and, even though its expenses exceeded its receipts, the paper was of value to the Society and the farmer. Articles were contributed by the editor and the farmers. Many articles of interest to farmers were reprinted from other papers. The proceedings of the Society were given in full. The first issue contained articles on rye, sheep-killing dogs, peanuts, and how to make homes pleasant. County societies were urged to contribute news about their associations. In an effort to populate the state, there was a word to bachelors. It could be summed up as follows: A man who is not the father of children, who has never written a book, or planted a tree, might as well

³³ Everett Dick, "The Long Drive," Kansas Historical Collections 17, 27-97.

³⁴ Kansas Laws, 1865, ch. 73, Ibid., 1861, ch. 82. Prohibited diseased cattle to be driven in--Texas cattle not specified; Ibid., 1866, ch. 114.

never been born, since the world when he dies has nothing to remember him by. It is better to plant a tree. It is the very least he can do for his country.³⁵

The Emigrant Aid Book had been published in 1864 to guide settlers. This guide contained many prominent national events, the United States Census, a list of the presidents of the United States, principal cities, and agricultural production in the United States. For Kansas, it included Kansas government, post offices, postage rates, land surveys, the school system, Kansas State Agricultural College, societies, agricultural products, and an account of the 36 counties, including the population.

During the period of 1864 and 1865, the Society had very little activity due to the Civil War. However, annual meetings were held and officers were elected during these years.

The Society revived its activities in 1866. At the fourth annual meeting the officers were re-elected, but the executive committee was changed. Alfred Gray, H. J. Strickler, G. W. Deitzler, J. W. Sponable, S. S. Tipton, and C. B. Lines, who were real crusaders for the Society in this era following the war, were elected.

One of the problems which confronted the Society in 1866, was the loss of livestock. There were very few fences in the state, and the Society sponsored a change in the stray law. The law was to require the county clerk to advertise in three consecutive numbers of The Kansas Farmer a complete list of all strays. This would make it possible to have a central paper where anyone

³⁵ The Kansas Farmer is in the State Historical Society Library at Topeka.

could look up the description of the stock lost. The resolution became a statute on February 27, 1866.³⁶

The Society began entering into other activities. A sheep-shearing demonstration was planned for June, 1867, and a pamphlet on cheese and butter making was recommended. The Society was constantly putting information into the hand of the farmer who, if he used it, could benefit by the experience. The press was his best friend. All these efforts were to raise farming from a marginal to a profit-making industry. It is true that experiments sometimes failed and the average farmer was dependent on each year's growth to buy the necessary needs. He had not enough capital to invest in experiments. Prices were good in those post-war years but did not warrant too much experimentation, and the State Agricultural College had little money to carry on experiments.

The Society began sponsoring fairs. One had been planned in 1864 and one in 1865, but war conditions prevented them from being held. The fair was held in 1866. Bids were sought, as they had been in 1863. Garnett and Anderson Counties made a joint proposal with a \$2,000 guarantee, and the Lawrence Fair Association, just organized, guaranteed \$4,500 for the fair. The Lawrence offer was accepted if the fair grounds would be free of expense and \$2,000 made available for the development of the grounds. Horace Greeley, later a national figure in the Grange movement, was invited to visit and make the main address. He was unable to attend. S. O. Thacher³⁷ and I. S. Killoch³⁸ were the speakers. The fair

³⁶ Kansas Laws, 1866, ch. 234, to amend the act of 1861.

³⁷ Member of the First Board of Regents of the University of Kansas.

³⁸ Editor of the Western Home Journal, elected president of the Kansas State Agricultural Society in 1870.

was declared a success. When all bills were paid, there was a balance of one dollar from the receipts which totaled \$4,458.

At the fair, competition for premiums was based on what the farmer had to enter. Instead of requiring pure-breeds, grades and crosses were the entries. Not until the third annual fair in 1867, did Shorthorne, Devons, and Ayrehires appear on the premium list for cattle. Sweepstakes were offered for the best bull or best cow regardless of the age. Not much attention had been paid to the importance of good cattle breeding until 1867.

Horses were divided into 13 classes and a higher premium was given for the best thoroughbred stallion instead of the best draft stallion of any breed. Up to the sixties, oxen had been the best sod-breakers and were still used somewhat during the sixties. The draft horse was not as important as the more flashy thoroughbred stallion. Fifty dollars award was offered for the best thoroughbred stallion, but only thirty dollars for the best draft stallion.

The Leavenworth fair in 1869 showed a little improvement in the lot for horses. Aldernays and other grades were excluded. Horses of all work were added to the list, with a fifty-dollar premium as the top award.

Sheep were classified in long and short wool groups in 1868. American or Spanish Marino made up the long wool group and short wool was whatever might fall in that class.

Swine fell into three classes. The Berkshire was one class. Cumberland, Chester White, Yorkshire, Woburn Irish, and Magic Breedspied made up the second group. The last group was composed of Suffolk, China Essex, and other small breeds.

In the household group separate premiums were offered. However, flour, starch, butter, cheese, honey, bread, cake, doughnuts, crackers, pickled cucumbers, gherkins, peaches, catsup, and "browned coffee" were grouped together in the same class. Flowing, epading matches, canned fruit, butter, cheese, and native wines were in another group. Wines were not on the premium list but were exhibited and judged at the winter meeting of the Society in order to make an occasion of the meeting.

Poultry was given a separate class and included China, Dorking, Game, Poland, Spanish, Jersey, Blues, Bolton Grays, Dominique, Shanghai and African Bantams, with a premium for native birds.

The activities of the Society were closely associated with the movement for the establishment of land-grant colleges. Kansas accepted the provision of the Morrill Act of 1862 in February, 1863. Bluemont College with 100 acres of land was given to the state on February 16, 1863. This gift located the land-grant college at Manhattan. Joseph Denison, already a life member of the Kansas State Agricultural Society, was made president of the new college and attended some of the weekly meetings of the Society. At one meeting he reported on the activities of the college, which he said had always been closely associated with the Agricultural Society. He said the college and the Society had the same objective, namely, "the diffusion of intelligence among farmers".³⁹ He believed that the college was indebted for its existence to the Agricultural Society. The Pennsylvania Agricultural Society had established an agricultural college in Pennsylvania which had started the agricultural movement and eventually led to the Morrill Act it-
³⁹ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1873, 31.

self Dr. J. T. Willard reports that it was not until 1867 that a suitable agriculturist was found for the college. The college had started in September, 1863, and it has a story of its own. The college was handicapped for lack of sufficient funds. From the advertisement in The Kansas Farmer, tuition and college rooms were free. The college had received little financial support from the legislature and therefore had been unable to carry on many experiments.⁴⁰

By 1867, it was evident that the farmers all over the country wanted some kind of agricultural reform. It was a restless period. The South was in a deplorable condition, according to O. H. Kelley, who started the Grange movement. The Society was again trying to get more effective legislation to stimulate sheep-raising and to prevent the long drives of cattle to market, in order to eradicate the cattle disease which was highly contagious.⁴¹

In 1867, the State Agricultural Society had asked the legislature for a \$5,000 appropriation to conduct the state fairs each year and to pay premiums and aid in developing the resources of the state; \$3,500 was appropriated. The fair of 1867 was held in Leavenworth, and Professor J. S. Houghton of the Kansas State Agricultural College was the speaker. The fair was also the outstanding feature of the Society's activities in 1868 and 1869. It was such a success in 1869 that the Society wrote Alfred Gray, the general superintendent, a letter "that the secretary be requested to, and is hereby authorized to present some suitable expression of high appreciation in discharging the duties of the general su-

⁴⁰ Julius Terrass Willard, History of the Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science (Manhattan, 1940), 26-27.

⁴¹ Kansas Laws, 1868, ch. 105; Ibid., 1867, ch. 152.

perintendent".⁴² A silver wine set was selected for the gift.

In 1870, the Society held the annual meeting in the agricultural rooms in the new capitol building. The weekly Class Meetings were again held during the sessions of the legislature. There was a great deal of spirit which could be compared with the earlier meetings of the sixties.

The office of vice-president was added to the elected offices in 1870, and O. E. Learnard was elected. Alfred Gray was again chosen for general superintendent of the fair which was held at Fort Scott in September. Andrew Wilson of Shawnee County and Judge Caffee of Riley had the largest groups of thoroughbred cattle on exhibition. There were English and French draft stallions exhibited and about 80 head of hogs. Alfred Gray brought his Berkshires, which were chosen the best breed there. At this exhibition, all the sheep were Merinos. There were 500 half-blooded Angora goats, poultry, grains, vegetables, flowers, plows, drills, reapers, different types of art displays, and millinery goods and a collection of photographs of all styles and shapes, including monochromes of the state officers on exhibit. All the fruit was from Kansas except one small collection from Missouri. George A. Crawford displayed articles from his woolen mills.⁴³ The fair was the greatest financial success ever held by the Society. Among the novelties was one bar of soap which weighed 800 pounds, and another which weighed 250 pounds.

In order that more members of the Society might be at the

⁴² K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1873, 46.

⁴³ Woolen mills were at Fort Scott. Machinery was ordered in 1865.

fair rather than at the annual meeting in January, the election of officers for 1871 was held on the last day of the fair. I. S. Kalloch was re-elected president and O. E. Learned was also re-elected vice-president. Alfred Gray replaced H. J. Strickler as secretary, the latter having declined to be re-elected, and Thomas Murphy filled the office which had been previously filled by C. B. Linee.

In January, 1871, President Kalloch gave the annual message on the "Challenge of Kansas." Kalloch stated that we have something to finish. The agricultural society was the chief exponent of the people's work and ideas. The first awards given by the Society for essays went to J. K. Hudson for his essay on grains and to Isaac Hines for one on grasses. Hines also brought wine for which he received a silver medal, and his formula for making good wine by the patent air method was discussed and praised. In order to promote good crops, Hudson gave the Society some of his best grains and potatoes for free distribution. Recognition was given to former Secretary Strickler for his service to the Society. He had pioneered in building the Society, first serving as an executive board member in 1866, and then as secretary from 1867 to 1870, inclusive. A silver service was sent to him by the members of the Society to express their appreciation.

With the election of Alfred Gray as secretary, the premium list for the fair in 1871 was much better. The fair was held at Topeka. A new floral hall and race track added to the success of the fair.

Shorthorns, Jerseys, Devons, Ayrshires, and grades represented the cattle group. There was but one Devon entry, and the Jer-

eeys were not well known. It was the first time a Jersey had been exhibited, and the contrast was so great that it was hard to realize the value of this breed. Horses were classified as thoroughbred stallions, horses of all work, draft horses and draft mares, matched horses and mares, best gelding for harness and saddle, and fast-trotting stallion. Sweepstakes were held on a stallion, colts, and best mare. Prizes were also given for ladies' riding. Purses were offered for trotting and the fastest racing stallion. Hogs were taken out of the class of large and small breeds, and placed in their respective types. Sheep had various breeds represented.

The significant part of this exhibit of 1871 was the contribution of the region of the "Great American Desert". On the eastern edge of the buffalo country, Saline County placed first in oats, fall barley, and salt, with a second premium on beets and sorghum. Riley County took first in winter wheat and buckwheat. Ottawa County took second on red winter wheat and had the best group of garden vegetables. Dr. L. Watson brought products from ground which he had broken on the extreme western border of Ellis County that spring. Sod corn, broom corn, Hungarian grass, peanuts, pumpkins, squashes, and melons were all produced without irrigation in Ellis County. The fruit displayed was from the eastern part of the state. California and Missouri had sent displays which were excellent and received merit. In the farm implements group, John Deere had the best exhibit. There were no medals. The dis, that had been made in Leavenworth, was sent to Chicago to make the gold and silver medals. Before they could be returned they were burned in the Chicago fire of October, 1871.

The last annual meeting of the Society met on January 10, 1872. These meetings had begun to be occasions, in that they were like small fairs. The main business of interest at this last meeting was the election of President Strickler and Secretary Gray to represent Kansas at a national convention which was to be held in the interest of agriculture in Washington. The meeting had been called by the Commissioner of Agriculture for the purpose of promoting agriculture in the states.

On February 7, 1872, C. W. Murtfelt⁴⁴ reported on a trip that the members of the Missouri State Board of Agriculture and the Kansas State Agricultural Society had taken to Pike's Peak. Leavenworth, Atchison, Waterville, Blue Rapids, and Lawrence were some of the towns that had been visited on the trip. The representatives of the two Societies stopped at Manhattan on their way home. Those who had seen the college before felt that much improvement had been made in the last few years. They found the one college building to be entirely inadequate for the school's enrollment. The railroads had given special rates for this trip. This was in line with the practice of granting special rates for the annual meetings and for the Farmers' Institute.

One other interest of the Society was that of "Timber Culture". The Timber Culture Act was passed in 1866, and it was felt that shelter belts would be advantageous to Kansas. J. A. Warden of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture gave a practical address on the subject before the Society in 1872. He recommended the kinds of trees best suited for the area. A discussion followed. S. T.

⁴⁴ C. W. Murtfelt was president of the Missouri State Board of Agriculture.

Kelsey of Franklin County⁴⁵ said, "You might as well plant borers as locust for they will surely follow."⁴⁶ The Timber Culture Act was a failure in this state. Its terms were not suited to the territory left in the Public Domain.

In 1872, the Kansas State Agricultural Society was replaced by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. By this time, definite progress had been made. The Plantation System of farming had proved impractical. Because sod was like woven leather, only small tracts could be broken in one year. However, as the population had moved westward, larger farms had resulted. Livestock farming had taken the place of the exclusive raising of staple crops. The Society had served its state in many capacities. It had started the first agricultural farm paper in Kansas. It had made the first attempt to gather statistics relating to agriculture. The Class Meetings for the benefit of the farmer and the legislature had proved successful. Throughout the discussions, one could trace the shift from an interest in southern agricultural crops to an interest in cattle, corn, and small grains. The Society had played a leading role in helping the pioneer adapt himself to his environment. More emphasis had been put on staging the annual fair, partly because the center of population was still in Douglas County. Consequently, the fairs were well attended. Up to 1871, there had been no financial loss to the Society. The fair was a place to meet old friends. Alfred Gray had made a genuine improvement in the premium list. Most of the Society's recommendations to the state legislature had become laws. The Kansas

⁴⁵ A member of the executive committee of the Society.

⁴⁶ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1872, 63.

State Agricultural Society had made its report to the Speaker of the House as required by law. But the state was under no obligation to publish the reports, and with a limited treasury, the reports were lost to the public.

The real weakness of the Society was lack of financial support. The only appropriations listed for the use of the Society were one thousand dollars in 1863 and three thousand, five hundred dollars in 1867. The Society was not a part of the state government and, therefore, the state was not obligated to take any responsibility for the maintenance of the organization. Even though the legislature cooperated, a budget could not be planned to sponsor projects. The Society adjusted itself to the needs of the state. A recognition of the weaknesses of the existing Society and of the services which might be rendered by a stronger one, prompted the men who had worked close to the Society to seek the legislation that established the Kansas State Board of Agriculture in 1872.

CHAPTER III. ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
1872 - 1892

On February 12, 1872, the Kansas State Board of Agriculture was created.¹ It was a department of the state government, supported by the state. The officers of the Kansas State Agricultural Society became the officers of the Board. The Governor and Secretary of State were made ex-officio members of the Board, as were the president or a delegate from each county or district society of the state, providing the society had sent a report of its activities to the Board.²

The forming of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture is indicative of the times. The Grange movement was reaching its peak. The laws, that had been passed for the man of little means, had been capitalized on by the speculators. It was the purpose of these organizations to break the monopolies and lower railroad rates.

The growth of the Board is indicative of the trend of the time. In 1873, the Board expanded its staff to include four appointive offices: a state geologist, entomologist, meteorologist, and botanist. E. F. Mudge, professor of natural science at the State Agricultural College, was chosen as geologist; O. V. Riley, state entomologist of Missouri, became the Kansas entomologist; Professor Frank H. Snow, professor of natural history of Lawrence, was chosen as meteorologist; Professor James H. Carruth, also of

¹ Kansas Laws, 1872, ch. 37. This law was not revised until 1915.

² For the details of organization, see Appendix. See also Kansas Farmer, May 1, 1863, and K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1872, 65.

Lawrence, was chosen as botanist. The reports of each were to be included in the next annual report.

The Kansas State Board of Agriculture continued without a change in policy for the next two years. This policy was, in a general way, to report the happenings in the state to the people in order that they could better their situation.

The annual report of the Board was to be published at state expense. The number of copies was set at 3500 in order that the people could benefit by the report.

The report of the year was fashioned after that of some of the other states. It was to include all industries; statistics of products such as wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, barley, and other crops. Activities of county societies, the annual exhibition, prize papers and essays, report of the Kansas Academy of Science,³ Kansas State Agricultural College, and the Transactions of the State Horticultural Society were also to be included in the annual report.

Only a few pages of the report of 1872 were concerned with the statistics. Few of the counties had sent in a report, and those that were sent were not uniform, in that each county clerk made out his own blanks, which destroyed the value of the report. E. S. Nicolls⁴ visited in person all the counties along the line of the railroads and finally obtained returns for 36 counties out of the 69 then organized.

The report contained the Constitution, a detailed descrip-

³ This society is a co-ordinate of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture: Kansas Laws, 1873, ch. 137.

⁴ Member of the executive department of the Board.

tion of the annual fair, reports of 21 district societies, several articles on raising, feeding, and management of hogs in Kansas, the proper use of manure, essay on grain, and practical papers on agricultural education, economic entomology, forest trees in Kansas, stone in Kansas, and a description of J. K. Hudson's "Piggery" at Hillside Farm. The last half of the volume contained the proceedings of the Kansas Academy of Science and the State Horticultural Society.

The 1873 report contained tables showing each crop in the several counties according to yield, acreage, price, and value. There was information on the railways, public land offices and county agricultural societies. The crops emphasized in the report were wheat, corn, oats, barley, buckwheat, castor-beans, flax seed, hemp, and tobacco. In the report of 1872, corn had been the chief crop.⁵ It was crowned king, and its yield was large. It exceeded the demand, and in some cases was used for fuel because of the low price. Railroad rates were so high shipment was out of the question if a profit were to be had. Corn was the main crop that had been grown by the Indians, and today some of the corn originated from that group.⁶ It had grown well in Kansas and had been the main product raised. A greater variety of crops was planted as a result of the low price and large crop of corn. The 1873 report shows an increase in acreage of other crops.

In 1873, the Board asked the legislature to buy cotton seed

⁵ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1874, 81; Ibid., 457. On new ground no crop can be as certain as wheat.

⁶ K.S.B.A., Biennial Report, 1909-10, 117.

for planting for the southern part of the state. This request was refused by the legislature. Interest had decreased in that type of crop and had turned to the crops more suitable to the soil and climate of the state.

Early in 1873, the State Agricultural College, in cooperation with the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, instigated the first Farmers' Institute. The Institute proposed and planned a convention to be held in Topeka in April to form a state organization whose purpose was to make a combined front in the interest of the farmer and agriculture against monopolies. It urged each farming community to organize.

The most important accomplishment for the year 1873 was the passage of the census law.⁷ The objections to the previous census law had been the lack of compensation to the assessor, and the township trustees were chosen for duties other than that of assessors. The Board supported this new census law which required the county clerks, through chosen assessors, to enumerate items pertaining to agriculture, horticulture, livestock, coal, and other industries of the state. The blanks were to be furnished by the State Board of Agriculture. The facts could be answered by facts. The demand for statistics had increased and the reports of 1872 and 1873 were far from adequate.

The Board wanted the facts to counteract the statements of speculators who were "on the loose," and it also wanted to protect the prospective farmer from the misleading reports.

Secretary Alfred Gray realized the need for dependable statistics for every year. In 1875 Gray called the State Board of

⁷ Kansas Laws, 1873, ch. 137.

Agriculture an "industrial and statistical bureau".⁸ The report of 1874 was a result of that need. The statistics collected were assembled in various tables built on the questions that had come to the office. Since the Kansas Emigration Society had dissolved, the Board functioned in that capacity and received most of the requests asking for information about Kansas.

In 1874, monthly reports were begun in order to keep an accurate check on growing crops and weather conditions. That year was a trying one in Kansas. The winter was cold and spring was late. About July, 1874, the grasshoppers came.⁹ A special session of the legislature was called to issue bonds for the devastated area. A questionnaire was sent to each county and all the societies and prominent citizens to determine which counties were devastated. Grasshoppers, chinehbugs, conditions of crops, and the amount of destruction were included in the questionnaire. It was difficult to get data. The report was intended as a guide in determining which counties needed aid and which ones had surpluses. Most of the counties organized before 1870 had surpluses and were not devastated. The people who required assistance other than rations numbered 18,134. A relief committee was appointed by Governor Thomas A. Osborn. The committee was to take charge and conduct the business of receiving and forwarding the contributions. Thomas Murphy¹⁰ and Alfred Gray were members of the committee. According to the final report of the committee, \$73,863.47 in cash and

⁸ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1875, 5.

⁹ Wilder, op. cit., 643.

¹⁰ Former treasurer of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture.

265 carloads of supplies and 11,049 packages were distributed. The average value of a carload was about \$400, which made a total of \$235,108.47 distributed by the committee. John Kerr of St. Louis gave 50,000 packages of garden seed to the State Board to distribute to the farmers made destitute by the grasshoppers. To relieve the situation, 100 pounds of oats, in quart packages, came from the United States Department of Agriculture!

A fair was held at Leavenworth as planned in 1874. The aim of the fair was to counteract adverse criticism of Kansas due to the grasshopper invasion. Horse-racing had been discontinued because of the corrupting practice. The Grange had asked for the fair to be located in one place instead of depending on "economical inducement". In 1875, the Board went out of the "show business"¹¹ for the reason that it took too much time to stage a fair and there had been a financial loss for each year since 1871.

A fair had been held in 1873 at Topeka. There was again a deficit and the first act of the new board in 1874 was to adopt a resolution to insure the Board against debt in holding fairs. The Board asked the legislature not to allow it to incur a debt beyond what is appropriated for the Board. There had been a debt since 1871, a total which had reached \$5,669.42. The legislature appropriated \$6,500 to cover the debt and passed the law as requested.¹²

The policy of the Board began to change in 1874 and 1875, as

¹¹ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1874, 6. The Board was requested to have a fair in 1878. It was thought that the best fair was the year itself.

¹² Ibid., 10.

indicated by the annual report. Their purpose was to give accurate information to the coming settler and present Kansas in its true light as well as help the already established farmer. Weather reports began to appear, together with the statistics. The volume was attractive. It contained colored maps of the organized counties which showed upland and bottom land, townships, railroads, rivers, towns, and prairie and forest. A detailed account of each county comprised most of the volume with a statement of occupations, railroads, dairy statistics, water power, manufactures, banks, schools, and all the other factors which made up agricultural communities.

The Board was permitted to operate in 1874 more as a matter of courtesy and sympathy for its work than because of confidence in the body that governed it.¹³ The annual report exemplified the work of the Board, and the vast amount of information which it brought together proved its worth. It covered the many questions raised by the difficult year of 1874, and information sought by the pioneer that was attracted to the state.

In order to learn what others had done, the State Board of Agriculture chose Professor W. K. Kedzie of Kansas State College to tour England and Europe as a representative of the Board.¹⁴ He was to observe the agricultural experiments and gather information for establishing a museum depicting the development of agriculture. Arrangements were to be made for the exchange of bulle-

¹³ Ibid., 5.

¹⁴ The first society organized in the United States discussed the advancement of agriculture in England and Europe instead of home problems. Professor Kedzie was the chemist of the Board.

tins and publications with foreign countries. Kedzie's report was an interesting one, and on his return the Board planned a museum for the visitor who could see for himself the products of the state.

The last annual report included the regular information, and a report of the Board of Centennial Managers. This Board had been appointed by the governor to plan an exhibit for Kansas at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876.¹⁵ Much to the surprise of most of the exposition visitors, they found a good representation of crops that was comparable to other states. The Board had as its chairman, Alfred Gray. His purpose was to place his state in a reasonable light and by the exhibit to educate the eastern population.

Inquiries were increasing every day and due to the increased amount of work at the office, Secretary Gray did not accept the invitation to represent the United States on a committee at the Paris Universal Exhibition.

Kansas was almost doubling its population every decade. The center of population had moved into Geary County by 1878.¹⁶ The Board was still serving a dual purpose--to promote agriculture within the state and serve as an information bureau for the future agriculturist. In 1875 the legislature by law had provided for biennial reports from all state departments. The first biennial

¹⁵ Kansas asked for a separate building in order to display all her products together which has since been a practice at fairs. Alfred Gray received a certificate from Centennial Commissioners for the best collective exhibit.

¹⁶ Clark and Roberts, op. cit., 209.

report of the Board was published for the years 1877-78. Monthly reports were changed to a system of quarterly reports beginning in 1879. Current information was needed to supply the demand. In 1883, monthly reports on the condition of livestock, crops and weather were recommended during the growing season. Specific practical articles were included in the quarterly reports, as were interviews with farmers about their actual experience. These compared somewhat with the reports of the Class Meetings in the sixties.

The Kansas State Board of Agriculture had come a long way since its enactment on March 7, 1872. Much credit was given to Alfred Gray, who laid the foundations of the Board's activities and the establishment of a system that met every requirement of a growing agriculture. Gray had been trained as a lawyer in his native state, New York, but Kansas became his adopted home. His actual experience on his farm in Wyandotte County prepared him for the position he was to fill. He was a member of the executive committee from 1866 to 1871 and was chosen as secretary of the Agricultural Society. He served as secretary of the Board until his death on January 5, 1880. Credit is still given Gray for his efficiency, ability, and for his reliable reports. Through his foresight, the Board has been kept free of political pressure and has operated for the interest of the state.¹⁷

¹⁷ Beginning with 1874 the reports contained the information on all subjects: detailed description of each county; agriculture, dairy products, farm animals, crops, acreage, yield, horticulture, water power, schools, churches, principal towns, streams, timber, upland and lowland. The legislature sent for 3,000 copies in 1874. All copies were gone after the first month of publication.

Joseph K. Hudson was elected secretary, but resigned because of private business. He was active in public life besides being a stock-breeder and farmer. He was vice-president of the first co-operative association, a member of the House of Representatives, and later a regent of Kansas State Agricultural College. He made his contribution to the agricultural interest of the state by use of the press. He owned The Kansas Farmer, which he sold in 1880, and later bought The Topeka Daily Capital.

F. D. Coburn of Franklin County was elected to fill the unexpired term of Hudson, but by a ruling made by the Attorney-General, he could only fill the unexpired term.¹⁸

William Sims served as secretary from 1882-1888. His term of office was over the "boom period", and as a result, Sims represented organized agriculturists. As president of the Republican Congressional Convention, a member of the state senate and master of the state Grange, his experience was valuable in guiding the Board through this period. He had also served as treasurer of the Board. Secretary Sims continued the policy. Much of Kansas was still unoccupied,¹⁹ and he encouraged the boom year 1884-85 in so far as he urged the use of the available lands.

The museum that had been established in the agricultural rooms was a popular place. Its purpose was to represent Kansas agriculture. More effective inducements were planned by the Board. The history that had been published was for the Centennial Exposition concerning agriculturists, geology, and the natural history of

¹⁸ Kansas Facts, 1, 117. He was secretary of the Board again in 1894 until 1914.

¹⁹ K.S.B.A., op. cit., 1883-84, 6.

Kanene had been a success. The legislature required the Board to publish a report of a similar nature for those seeking homes. Sixty thousand copies were provided, 20,000 each in English and German and 10,000 in Danish.

Laws on Spanish fever were passed in the seventies and the eighties,²⁰ and in 1881 the cattle having the disease were prohibited from entering the state.²¹ In the effort to curb diseases, a veterinarian was added to the appointive offices of the state,²² and in the same special session, the Kansas Livestock Commission was created.²³

About the middle of the eighties it was planned to ask Kansas State Agricultural College to carry out experiments of first importance to the Board and publish the results in the biennial report.

All of Kanene was now organized into counties. The policy of the Board changed from making the state attractive to the immigrant, to enlarging the membership of the State Board by encouraging institutes and county societies, and to investigate methods of agriculture to suit the soil and climate of the area. In the latter part of the decade the effect of the slump from the boom period was evident. Overgrazing and drought had ended the cattle industry. This gave way to plow agriculture, at a time which was simultaneously with the passage of the Hatch Act of 1887.

Martin Mohler became the fourth secretary of the Board in January, 1888. He had come from Osborne County and had done a great

²⁰ Kansas Laws, 1872, ch. 195; 1873, ch. 139; 1877, ch. 163.

²¹ Ibid., 1881, ch. 161; 1883, ch. 143; 1885, ch. 191. Again prohibited all drives.

²² Ibid., Special Session, 1884, ch. 1.

²³ Ibid., ch. 2.

deal to improve methods of dry farming. A committee was appointed for the purpose of utilizing rainfall²⁴ and of preparing the soil for planting so as to hold the moisture. The weather seemed to be against the settler. Beginning with 1867, the bad years seemed to alternate with good years until 1890, which was the hottest and driest year since 1870. Agricultural production was affected materially.

By 1867, sorghum was becoming as important in the west as corn was in the east. Hard winter wheat was taking its place among the staple crops. Alfalfa was encouraged by Secretary Mohler and it made its first appearance in the list of crops in the biennial report of 1891. In 1890, even the crops suited to the climate were in a deplorable condition.

The Board took an active part in the development of the resources of the state in the eighties. In the line of industry the Board reported on oil and gas resources²⁵ for the first time in 1885-86 and also encouraged the development of sugar²⁶ and salt. Measures had been taken to kill the loco weed which was supposed to be poisonous to livestock. The investigation showed it became impacted in the stomach and had caused death to the cattle.

With the discovery of rock salt in Ellsworth and Rice Counties, more attention was given to its use. The geologist of the Board reported the use of salt as a fertilizer for wheat to conserve soil moisture and to serve as an agency for controlling

²⁴ Kansas Facts, 1, 117.

²⁵ I. D. Graham, The Kansas State Board of Agriculture: Some Highlights of History, Kansas Historical Collections, 17, 790. K.S.B.A., Biennial Report, 1885-86, pt. 2, 207.

²⁶ Kansas Laws, 1887, ch. 231.

chinchbugs. All these experiments were verified by experiments at the State College. I. D. Graham²⁷ reports that the college sowed 300 pounds of salt to the acres which increased the yield of wheat by nine percent. Other experiments resulted in better pastures and destruction of weeds.

At the close of this 20-year period of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, the Board had faced a reduction in appropriations as well as one of the driest years since the seventies. To meet drought conditions the Board suggested a sub-experiment station to be located in the western part of the state in order to carry on experiments in that section.

The quarterly report of 1890 contained an article on the readjustment of American agriculture and the causes of the depression. Several questions had been sent to determine farmers' opinions on the difficulties. The questions asked were: What, in your judgment, is the chief cause of low prices in agriculture? What is the second cause? What is the remedy? Can low prices be remedied by legislation?

The findings suggested overproduction as the chief cause of low prices of farm products, railroad rates as the second, surpluses as the third. The farmers thought supply and demand regulated surpluses, and that legislation would be impractical, and lastly, that the farmer could regulate the market by controlled production.

The first two decades of the Board's activities ended in 1892. In view of the rising Populist Movement and the Panic of 1893, one might consider 1892 as the close of an era. In these two decades

²⁷ Assistant to the State Board of Agriculture until a few years ago.

the activities of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture had been effective and varied in their scope. The Board had provided an effective census law. It had encouraged organized agriculture and more local agricultural societies; it sponsored the first co-operative convention and institutes for the farmer; it supported national acts that would increase the efficiency of farming; it had been persistent in protecting stock from disease and improving the stock as well, and it encouraged methods of conservation of land, moisture, and soil and provided the establishment of commissions for the various industries of the state. The Board was always practical; it adjusted itself to the needs and wants of the people. Since the Board's organization the main purpose was always "to promote agriculture and its kindred arts throughout the state of Kansas". There is no doubt the Board was far more successful than the two previous societies due to the fact that this Board was supported by state taxation. With a financially supported program and a planned budget the Kansas State Board was a guiding force in the development of an agricultural state, and was always a servant of the farmer.

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APPENDIX

Kansas State Agricultural Society

Kansas Session Law 1862

Chapter 185

An act to organize a State Agricultural Society

Be it enacted by the State Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. That all persons who may now or hereafter become associated for the purpose of this act are hereby constituted a body corporate, by the name of the Kansas State Agricultural Society, for the purpose of promoting and improvement of agriculture and its kindred arts; and any citizen of this state may become a member of said society, by the payment annually of a membership fee, not exceeding one dollar.

Section 2. For the purposes aforesaid, the Society shall be, and the same is hereby made, capable in law to have, purchase, receive, and possess, to them and their successors, real and personal estate, necessary to give effect to the purposes of this Society, and the same to sell, grant, demise, and dispose of and to sue and be sued in all courts in this state and elsewhere: Provided, that the real or personal estate which the Society shall be authorized to hold, over and above its library and its scientific and agricultural collection, shall not, at any time, exceed an amount the value of ten thousand dollars.

Section 3. The Society shall have power to appoint such officers as they deem expedient, and also to make such by-laws and regulations as shall be deemed necessary for the well-ordering and government of the Society.

Section 4. This act may be altered, amended, or repealed, at the pleasure of the legislature of the State of Kansas.

Section 5. This act shall take effect and be enforced from and after its passage.

Approved March 6, 1862.

Kansas State Agricultural
Society Constitution

Article 1. The name of this association shall be THE KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, and its object be, to promote the improvement of agriculture, and its kindred arts, throughout the State of Kansas.

Article 2. The officers of this society shall be a president, a secretary, and a treasurer, and an executive committee, consisting of the president, secretary, and treasurer, and 10 other members to be chosen for that purpose. These officers shall be chosen by a majority of the votes at the annual meeting of the Society, and shall, except the members of the executive committee, hold their office for one year, and until their successors shall be elected. The president of each county agricultural society shall be ex officio vice-president of this Society, and the secretary of each county agricultural society shall be ex officio corresponding secretary, for that county, of this society. The executive committee, at their annual meeting in January, 1863, shall proceed to elect one-half of their number by a ballot, to hold for two years, and the other five shall hold for only one year; and at the next annual meeting of the Society, and annually thereafter, five members of the executive committee shall be elected, to hold for two years, and until the annual meeting of the executive committee.

Article 3. The duties of the president and secretary shall be such as usually pertain to their respective offices.

Article 4. The treasurer shall receive and keep an accurate account of all moneys belonging to the Society; he shall pay out its

moneys only on the order of the executive committee, and at each annual meeting of the Society he shall make a full report of its financial transactions and condition.

Article 5. The executive committee shall determine the place for holding each annual meeting and fair of the Society, and it shall call that meeting and fair at such time as it shall judge best.

Article 6. The executive committee shall direct the money appropriations of the Society, and have the control of its property. It shall make the necessary preparations for the annual fair, and it shall prepare the necessary by-laws for the Society. It shall be competent for the executive committee, or a majority of them, to appoint a chairman and secretary, who may transact all such business as they may be authorized to do by said committee; and said secretary shall sign, and said chairman shall countersign, all orders on the treasurer for the payment of any money directed by said committee to be paid for any purpose, and said secretary shall keep an accurate account of all orders so drawn.

Article 7. It shall be the duty of the executive committee annually to regulate an award premiums on such articles of production and improvement as they may deem best calculated to promote the agricultural and household manufacturing interests of the state, having special reference to the most economical or popular mode of competition in raising the crops or stock, or in the fabrication of the articles offered.

Article 8. The executive committee shall meet annually, at the capital of the state, on or before the second Tuesday in January, and shall then immediately prepare a report and abstract of the trans-

actions of the Society during the preceding year, embracing such valuable reports from committees, statements of experiments, cultivation and improvement, proceedings of county societies, correspondence, statistics, and other matters, the publication of which will exhibit the condition of the agricultural interests of Kansas, and a diffused knowledge of which will, in the judgment of the committee, add to the productiveness of agricultural and household labor, and therefore promote the general prosperity of the state; and as soon as practicable, the committee shall transmit such report and abstract to the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the use of the Legislature.

Article 9. No officer of this Society, except the secretary, shall receive any compensation for his services; the executive committee may allow the secretary such sum as they may deem advisable.

Article 10. Any person may become a member of the Kansas State Agricultural Society, for one year, by paying one dollar into its treasury. Any officer of the Society may receive and forward to the treasurer the fee requisite to a membership. By paying ten dollars into the treasury of the Society, any person may become a life member, and shall be entitled to a certificate of such membership, signed by the president and secretary.

Article 11. The several county agricultural societies, that now exist, or that may hereafter exist, in this state, shall be deemed auxiliaries of the state society; and it shall be the duty of the secretary to invite and receive reports and abstracts of the county societies, to be used in preparing the annual report to the Legislature, which is provided for by article eighth of this

constitution.

Article 12. The president and secretary of each county agricultural society, and all life members of this Society, may attend the annual meeting of the executive committee, and freely participate in all the discussions which shall occur at such meetings.

Article 13. The first meeting of the executive committee, shall be held at such time and place as a majority of such members shall direct.

Article 14. This constitution shall be altered only by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at an annual meeting of the Society.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture

Kansas Session Law 1872

Chapter 37

An act for the encouragement of agriculture

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. The present officers and executive committee of the Kansas State Agricultural Society shall be, and are hereby constituted the State Board of Agriculture, who shall continue to hold their offices the terms for which they have been respectively elected, to-wit: The president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and one-half or five of the executive committee, until the second Wednesday of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, and five of the executive committee, until the second Wednesday of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-four: Provided, Said Society alter or amend their constitution in such a manner as not to conflict with the provisions of this act. The Governor and Secretary of State shall be ex-officio members of the State Board of Agriculture.

Section 2. That every county or district agricultural society, composed of one or more counties, whether now organized or hereafter to be organized under the laws of the State of Kansas, shall be entitled to send the president of such society or other delegate therefrom, duly authorized in writing, to the annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, to be held on the second Wednesday of January of each year, and who shall, for the time being, be ex-officio members of the State Board of Agriculture: Provided, That

each county or district society herein mentioned, shall have held a fair the current year, offered and awarded premiums for the improvement of stock, tillage, crops, implements, mechanical fabrics and articles of domestic industry, and such other articles and improvements as they may deem proper, and grade the said premiums so that it will be competent for small, as well as large farmers and artisans, to compete for the same, make out a statement containing a synopsis of the awards, and an abstract of the treasurer's account, and report on the condition of agriculture, in their county, to the state board. Said statement to be forwarded by mail or otherwise to the secretary of the state board on or before the fifteenth day of November, in each year.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the State Board of Agriculture, together with so many of the presidents or authorized delegates of the county societies as may be in attendance, to meet at the capital of the state on the second Wednesday of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, and annually thereafter, and proceed to elect by ballot a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and five members of the State Board of Agriculture, who, when regularly convened, shall constitute the State Board of Agriculture. The president, vice-president, and treasurer shall be elected to serve for one year, and the secretary and members shall serve for two years from the time of their election.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the State Board of Agriculture to make an annual report of its proceedings for the preceding year to the legislature, embracing a report of the State Horticultural Society, and an abstract of the proceedings of the

county societies, as well as a general view of the condition of agriculture throughout the state, accompanied by such essays, statements and recommendations as they shall deem interesting and useful, which reports shall be printed by the state. The transactions of the State Agricultural Society, and the State Horticultural Society, shall be published in one volume, from the respective organizations of said societies: Provided, That said printing shall in all respects conform to "an act providing for the election of a public printer, and prescribing the duties thereof," approved February 25, 1869: Provided, further, That the said reports shall be bound in cloth, and shall not cost to exceed one dollar per copy.

Section 5. The number of copies of the report as provided in the foregoing section shall be limited to three thousand five hundred. The Secretary of State shall distribute the said reports as follows: Two hundred and seventy copies to the state officers, twelve hundred and seventy to the legislature, five hundred to the State Horticultural Society, five copies to the State Library, five copies to the State Agricultural College and fourteen hundred and fifty copies to the State Board of Agriculture, for distribution among the agricultural, horticultural societies, mechanical associations and farmers' clubs of the state, and for distribution and exchange with other state societies, and as may seem best for the interest of the state.

Section 6. The office of the State Board of Agriculture shall be in the capitol building, in the rooms now occupied by the State Agricultural Society, unless a change shall be deemed necessary by the Secretary of State.

Section 7. The sum of thirty-five hundred dollars (\$3,500) is hereby appropriated for the year eighteen hundred and seventy-two for the benefit of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, to be paid by the treasurer of the state upon the order of the president of said board, audited by the auditor of the state, in such sums and at such times as may be necessary for the payment of the premiums awarded at the fairs or industrial exhibitions to be held under the auspices and control of the said State Board of Agriculture.

Section 8. Whenever any county or district society, composed of one or more counties, which shall have complied fully with the provisions of the second section of this act so as to be entitled to a representation in the State Board of Agriculture, and shall then have raised and paid into the hands of their treasurer a sum not less than fifty dollars (\$50), either by voluntary contribution or fees imposed upon their members, and a certificate showing the fact, attested by the president and treasurer of said society, under oath, shall be presented to the chairman of the board of county commissioners to issue an order on the treasurer of said county in favor of the treasurer of said society for a sum equal in amount to the sum so paid into the treasury of said society by the members thereof--said moneys to be used wholly for the payment of premiums awarded at the fair held by the Society within said county: Provided, The amount so drawn from the county treasury shall not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200) in any one year.

Section 9. The premium list and rules and regulations, together with the time set and location determined upon for holding

the annual fair shall be published by the State Board of Agriculture, on or before the first day of April of each year.

Section 10. This act to take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Kansas Weekly Commonwealth.

Approved February 19, 1872.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original enrolled bill now on file in my office, and that the same was published in the Kansas Weekly Commonwealth March 7, 1872.

W. H. Smallwood,

Secretary of State

Constitution of the Kansas State Board of
Agriculture, Adopted March 12, 1872

Article I

The name of this association shall be known as the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Its object shall be to promote the improvement of agriculture, stock-raising, horticulture, manufacturing and household arts in the State of Kansas.

Article II

The present officers and executive committee of the Kansas State Agricultural Society shall be, and are hereby constituted the State Board of Agriculture, who shall continue to hold their offices the terms for which they have been respectively elected, to-wit: The president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and one-half or five of the executive committee until the second Wednesday of January, 1873, and five of the executive committee until the second Wednesday of January, 1874. The Governor and Secretary of State shall be ex-officio members of the State Board of Agriculture.

Article III

That every county or district agricultural society composed of one or more counties, whether now organized or hereafter to be organized under the laws of the State of Kansas, shall be entitled to send the president of such society or other delegate therefrom, duly authorized in writing, to the annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, to be held on the second Wednesday of Janu-

ary of each year, and who shall, for the time being, be ex-officio members of the State Board of Agriculture, provided that each county or district society herein mentioned, shall have held a fair the current year, offered and awarded premiums for the improvement of stock, tillage, crops, implements, mechanical fabrics and articles of domestic industry, and such other articles and improvements as they may deem proper, and grade the said premiums so that it will be competent for small, as well as large farmers and artisans, to compete for the same, make out a statement containing a synopsis of the awards, and an abstract of the treasurer's account and report on the conditions of agriculture in their county to the State Board. Said statement to be forwarded by mail or otherwise to the secretary of the State Board on or before the fifteenth day of November in each year.

Article IV

It shall be the duty of the State Board of Agriculture, together with so many of the presidents or authorized delegates of the county societies as may be in attendance, to meet at the capital of the state, on the second Wednesday of January, 1873, and annually thereafter, and proceed to elect by ballot, a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and five members of the State Board of Agriculture, who when regularly elected, shall constitute the State Board of Agriculture. The president, vice-president, and treasurer shall be elected to serve for one year, and the secretary and members shall serve for two years from the time of their election.

Article V

It shall be the duty of the State Board of Agriculture to make an annual report of the proceedings for the preceding year to the Legislature, and an abstract of the proceedings of the county societies, as well as a general view of the condition of agriculture throughout the state, accompanied by such essays, statements, and recommendations as they shall deem interesting and useful.

Article VI

The office of the State Board of Agriculture shall be in the capitol building.

Article VII

The premium list and regulations, together with the time set and location determined upon for holding the annual fair, shall be published by the State Board of Agriculture on or before the first day of April of each year.

Article VIII

Any member of the State Board who shall fail to attend three consecutive meetings, shall be considered to have resigned, and it shall be the duty of the State Board to fill the vacancy.

Article IX

A majority of the Board, with the president or the secretary, shall constitute a quorum at any called meeting.

Article X

The duties of the president and secretary shall be as pertain to their respective offices.

Article XI

The treasurer shall receive and keep an accurate account of all moneys belonging to the Society. He shall pay out its moneys only on the order of the president and secretary, and at each annual meeting of the Board he shall make a full report, in writing, of its financial transactions and condition. He shall give a bond to the satisfaction of the Board for the faithful performance of his duties. The said bond shall be renewed as often as the same person is elected to the office.

Article XII

That the privilege of life and annual membership admitting persons free to the exhibitions of the State Agricultural Society, are hereby continued by the State Board of Agriculture.

Article XIII

That the provisions of "an act for the encouragement of agriculture," approved February 19, 1872, be and the same are hereby accepted by the Society.

Article XIV

This constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at any annual meeting of the State Board.

List of Officers

1862

President
Secretary
Treasurer

Lyman Scott
F. G. Adams
Isaac Garrison

Leavenworth County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1863

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Superintendent

L. D. Bailey
F. G. Adams
F. P. Baker
J. L. McDowell

Lyon County
Shawnee County
Nebraska County

1864

President
Secretary
Treasurer

L. D. Bailey
F. G. Adams
Wm. Spriggs

Douglas County
Shawnee County
Anderson County

1865

President
Secretary
Treasurer

L. D. Bailey
John S. Brown
Wm. Spriggs

Douglas County
Douglas County
Anderson County

1866

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Superintendent

L. D. Bailey
John S. Brown
Wm. Spriggs
J. L. McDowell

Douglas County
Douglas County
Anderson County

1867

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Superintendent

R. G. Elliott
H. J. Strickler
C. B. Lines
J. L. McDowell

Douglas County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1868

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Superintendent

R. G. Elliott
H. J. Strickler
C. B. Lines
P. G. Lowe

Douglas County
Shawnee County
Wabaunsee County

1869

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Superintendent

R. G. Elliott
H. J. Strickler
C. B. Lines
Alfred Gray

Douglas County
Shawnee County
Wabaunsee County

1870

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Superintendent

I. S. Kalloch
O. E. Learnard
H. J. Strickler
Alfred Gray

Douglas County
Douglas County
Shawnee County

1871

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Superintendent

I. S. Kalloch
O. E. Learnard
Alfred Gray
Thomas Murphy
J. L. McDowell

Douglas County
Douglas County
Wyandotte County
Atchison County

1872

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Superintendent

H. J. Strickler
G. W. Veale
Alfred Gray
Thomas Murphy
H. T. Beman

Shawnee County
Shawnee County
Wyandotte County
Atchison County

1873

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Superintendent

E. S. Niccalle
T. Murphy
Alfred Gray
G. W. Veale
George Noble

Anderson County
Atchison County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1874

President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary

George T. Anthony
E. H. Funston
J. C. Wileon
Alfred Gray

Leavenworth County
Allen County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1875

President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary

George T. Anthony
George W. Glick
J. C. Wileon
Alfred Gray

Leavenworth County
Atchison County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1876

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

George T. Anthony
W. Glick
Alfred Gray
V. C. Wilson

Leavenworth County
Atchison County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1877

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

John Kelly
Leon Wilson
Alfred Gray
Wm. Sims

Sedgwick County
Leavenworth County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1878

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

John Kelly
Leon Wilson
Alfred Gray
Wm. Sims

Sedgwick County
Leavenworth County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1879

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

R. W. Jenkins
Leon Wilson
Alfred Gray
Wm. Sims

Clay County
Leavenworth County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1880

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

R. W. Jenkins
H. C. St. Clair
J. K. Hudson
Wm. Sims

Clay County
Sumner County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1881

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

R. W. Jenkins
John Kelly
J. K. Hudson
Wm. Sims

Clay County
Sedgwick County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1882

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

R. W. Jenkins
H. C. St. Clair
Wm. Sims
John Francis

Clay County
Sumner County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1883

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

R. W. Jenkins
H. C. St. Clair
Wm. Sims
John Francis

Clay County
Sumner County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1884

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

R. W. Jenkins
H. C. St. Clair
Wm. Sims
John Francis

Clay County
Sumner County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1885

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Joshua Wheeler
J. W. Johnson
Wm. Sims
John Francis

Jefferson County
Hamilton County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1886

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Joshua Wheeler
J. W. Johnson
Wm. Sims
John Francis

Jefferson County
Hamilton County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1887

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Joshua Wheeler
J. F. True
Wm. Sims
John Francis

Jefferson County
Jefferson County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1888

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Wm. Sims
Jas. F. True
M. Mohler
John Francis

Shawnee County
Jefferson County
Osborne County
Shawnee County

1889

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Wm. Sims
Jas. F. True
M. Mohler
John Francis

Shawnee County
Jefferson County
Osborne County
Shawnee County

1890

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

A. W. Smith
Edwin Snyder
M. Mohler
Samuel T. Howe

McPherson County
Jefferson County
Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1891

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

A. W. Smith
E. Harrington
M. Mohler
Samuel T. Howe

McPherson County

Shawnee County
Shawnee County

1892

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

A. W. Smith
E. Harrington
M. Mohler
Samuel T. Howe

McPherson County

Shawnee County
Shawnee County